Our Lady of the Black Hills

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Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Our Staff

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Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Daily Liturgy: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 8:00 am
Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday, 8:00 am - 6:30 pm, with Reconciliation from 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Gatherings of Grace

Our parish has an intergenerational model of faith formation to encourage lifelong learning for all ages called Gatherings of Grace. All generations meet together the second Wednesday of each month, September through May.

Bulletin Announcements

Please email bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

While Fr. Mark is away, finishing up his studies, members of the parish have been asked to write a brief reflection on the Mass readings.

New Wisdom for a New Way of Living

The confirmation class spent last weekend on retreat to examine a crossroads in their spiritual journey. They have a mature decision to make – whether or not they choose to complete the initiation process and receive the sacrament of confirmation to become full members of the Catholic Church. The readings this week can be informative for them as they continue their discernment process.

Jesus, son of Eleazar, son of Sirach, the author of the Book of Sirach, points out that not only does God give each of us the wisdom to make personal choices; but that he also gives us the responsibility for the consequences of our decisions: God is not responsible for the sin and injustice that result from the exercise of our free will.

Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians that there is a new wisdom revealed in the person of Jesus Christ – a divine wisdom that is eternal, mysterious, and hidden. This new wisdom is accessible for the mature, through Jesus Christ, by those who love God.

The Gospel emphasizes that Christ fulfills, or completes, Mosaic Law with a new law, a new way of living. Jesus contrasts Mosaic Law with these new teachings – and the new teachings are hard. To be a disciple is not easy: anger results in the same progression of judgment and punishment as murder; reconciliation is more important than sacrifice for redemption; adultery is a sin of the heart instead of a sin of the flesh; divorce is not allowed; one should sacrifice that which causes them to sin for the sake of salvation. The new way of living is difficult: the spirit of the law is more important than the letter of the law.

We are all confronted with the reality that being a Catholic is difficult in the culture in which we live: to be a disciple is still not easy and the teachings are still hard. We are reliant on the "new wisdom" to respond appropriately to the demands of the "new way of living".

Please pray that the confirmands are graced with wisdom as they discern their future relationship to the Catholic Church.

Welcome Fr. Ed Cortney!
Thank you for coming to celebrate Eucharist with us.

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

February 14 ~ 20, 2011

Monday, February 14

Memorial of St. Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop
Readings: *Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Psalms 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mark 8:11-13 (white)*
8:00 am: Morning Prayer
4:30 pm: Lectio Divina Group
6:30 pm: Cub Scouts

Tuesday, February 15

Readings: *Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5; Psalms 129:1a, 2, 3ac-4; Mark 8:14-21 (green)*
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy at Casa Maria
Mass Intention: Fr. Ray Deisch's and Msgr. O'Connell's intentions
7:00 pm: Returning Catholics – St. Isaac Jogues
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, February 16

Readings: *Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22; Psalms 166:12-15, 18-19; Mark 8:22-26 (green)*
8:00 am: Morning Prayer
8:30 am – 8:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration
9:00 am – Noon: Food Pantry
10:00 am: Staff Holy Hour
7:00 – 8:15 pm: Reconciliation

Thursday, February 17

Readings: *Genesis 9:1-13; Psalms 102:16-18, 19-23, 29; Mark 8:27-33 (green)*
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy at Casa Maria
Mass Intention: For the repose of the soul of Lindsey Venjohn
10:00 am: Staff Meeting

Friday, February 18

Readings: *Genesis 11:1-9; Psalms 33:10-15; Mark 8:34-9:1 (green)*

Saturday Morning, February 19

Readings: *Hebrews 11:1-7; Psalms 145:2-5, 10-11; Mark 9:2-13 (green)*
9:00 am: Noon: Food Pantry
3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Evening, February 19

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalms 103:1- 4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48 (green)*
5:00 pm Sunday Vigil Liturgy
Mass Intention: For those battling addictions

Sunday, February 20

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalms 103:1- 4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48 (green)*
9:00 am: Sunday Liturgy
Mass Intention: For our parish community of OLBH
10:00 am: Coffee Hour
4:00 pm: Life Night & RCIA
6:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy
Mass Intention: For our children who are making their First Reconciliation

Ash Wednesday Collection

Last year, 22,000 persons in our diocese sought help through Catholic Social Services. The annual Ash Wednesday Collection taken on March 9, 2011 allows Catholic Social Services to provide services to people in need, regardless of ability to pay. Your continued generosity allows us to serve more people each year. Together, we can make a difference.

OLBH Parish News

KC's Crown Free Throw Champions

Six boys and girls from the Piedmont area, ages 10 to 14, were named local champions of the 2011 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship and have earned the right to compete at the district level. Our Lady of the Black Hills Council 7079 in Piedmont sponsored the local competition at Stagebarn elementary on January 22nd. All youngsters ages 10 to 14 were eligible to participate. Macy Davis was the 10-year-old girls' champion and Ryan Garland was the winner of the 10-year-old boys' division. In the 11-year-olds' bracket, Dillon Kaschmitter was the boys' champion. The twelve-year-old winner in the girls' division was Paige Gehlsen. The 13-year-old boys' division was won by Anthony Montes. The fourteen-year-old champion in the boys' bracket was John Kaschmitter. Each contestant was allowed 15 free throw attempts in the contests. Ties were settled by successive rounds of five free throws per contestant until a winner emerged.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will have a Pancake Breakfast from 9 to Noon on Feb 13th and a Bake Sale after all masses on Feb 12-13. Free will offerings will be accepted and all proceeds will benefit seminarians. Pancakes, coffee, sausage, eggs and apple sauce will be served. Come one, come all.

Knights of Columbus Chili Feed

OLBH Knights will be sponsoring a Chili Feed on Saturday, February 19th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. No charge, but free will donations will be accepted. Everyone come have some chili and support our local Knights of Columbus Chapter.

NCYC Meeting

If you are interested in sending your high school teen to NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) in Indianapolis, IN in November 2011, come to the informational meeting on Sunday, February 20th at 3:30 p.m. For questions, call Teresa Thompson, 787-5168

Palms for Ash Wednesday

We are collecting last year's Palm Sunday palms to burn for this year's Ash Wednesday Liturgy. You may place any you have in the basket in the gathering area.

Stations of the Cross Coordinator

Lent is nearly here, and we have a perfect opportunity for an individual or couple who will be responsible for scheduling identified groups to lead the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during the Lenten season. Contact Steve or Sue Colgan for more information: 745-5586.

Rosary Coordinator

Our Lady of the Black Hills is looking for an individual or couple who will be responsible for scheduling parishioners to lead the rosary before Mass during May and October. Contact Steve or Sue Colgan for more information: 745-5586

Lenten Fish Fry

Join us on Friday evenings during Lent, starting March 11th through April 15th, for our yearly Fish Fry. Our Fish Fry will be from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We will be offering fried and baked cod fillets or macaroni and cheese, served with baked potato, coleslaw and roll, brownies and ice cream, coffee, and fruit punch. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of our new rectory. We need ministry groups or family groups who would be willing to set up, cook, and clean up. Signup sheets are in the gathering area.

Thank You

Thank You OLBH parishioners for all your prayers for the Confirmation Retreat! Special thanks goes to Rebeca Lyle for helping to create a wonderful atmosphere at the retreat center, Debbie Krogstad for helping to run errands, Dan Carroll for playing beautiful music, Larry Williamson for leading us in prayer and much more, John Osnes for leading Adoration and Michelle Bucholz & Ryan Scherr for being the retreat team and Confirmation teachers.

Youth News

Safe Environment

This notice is for the parents/guardians who have children involved in any of the following; Middle School Edge, High School Life Teen, Gatherings of Grace, First Communion and Confirmation. In accordance with the charter for the Protection of Children and Young People mandated by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Rapid City has put in place a Safe Environment program for the protection of our young people. We will be showing the middle and high school youth the video "Breaking the Silence" followed with a discussion from Jim Kinyon and Cathy Larson from Catholic Social Services on Sunday February 13th. On February 20th, pre-k – 1st will be watching "Joey Learns the Touching Rule" and 2-5th will be watching "Yes, You Can Say No" The parents are invited to watch these videos beforehand if they would like to. Also, the parents are encouraged to watch the video, "What Do I Say Now" on Sunday, March 13th. Please contact Teresa Thompson for more information, 787-5168.

World Youth Day Fundraiser

Come support Fr. Mark, Ryan Scherr & Bree Quinn! February 22, 2011 from 5-8 pm - Plan a night out to dinner at the new Pizza Ranch in Rushmore Crossing, Rapid City. Bring your family, friends and appetite and be sure to find our special tip jars to make your donations! A percentage of the sales during the night will go toward the WYD pilgrims who will journey to Madrid, Spain this coming August. SEE YOU THERE and thank you for your support.

TECA-TEC

Teens Encounter Christ

March 11-13. Lemmon, SD. Cost: $40. Encounter Christ through the Paschal Mystery in the rich tradition of the Catholic faith. Experience the sacraments of the Church, talks, discussions, prayer, fellowship, food, and fun. For juniors in high school through young adults. Information online at www.rapidcitydiocese.org. Contact: Gloria Maher 1-701-522-3244 or Lynn Hahne 845-7004.

Steubenville of the Rockies

July 7-10th. Denver Convention Center, Denver, CO. Theme: Rooted. This retreat is open to entering freshman through freshman in college. Join this highly anticipated, three-day retreat of talks, music, entertainment, fellowship, Mass, Adoration, and Confession & Elitch Gardens. Registration opens in January. Contact: Provatia Pietila 343-3541.

Catholic College Student Summit

May 15th-20th. Estes Park, CO. Cost: $545. For college students and young adults. Live for a week in the Rocky Mountains and experience hiking, recreation, prayer and fellowship. Plus, study the following: Virtuous Leadership, Catholic Worldview, Theology of the Body, and How to Evangelize with Curtis Martin, Edward Sri, Tim Gray and Jim Beckman. Sponsored by the Augustine Institute and FOCUS. Register at www.augustineinstitute.org or contact John O'Brien at 303-937-4420 or Provatia Pietila at 343-3541 or ppietila@diorc.org.

NCYC

It's Back! This time it will be in Indianapolis, IN., November 16-21, 2011. Theme: Called to Glory. This is a great experience for the high school youth to Gather and celebrate the Catholic faith on a national level. Learn more about the Catholic Church. Meet thousands of other Catholic youth. Share beliefs and experiences. Recognize their role in the larger Catholic Church. **Cost: $565.00.** Price includes bus, hotel, registration and t-shirt. Food and spending money are extra. Deposit of $100 due by March 1st. Registrations and info are in the gathering area or are available online at www.rapidcitydiocese.org in the youth section. Go to www.nfcym.org/ncyc to see a promotional video. Please feel free to contact me with any questions Teresa Thompson, 787-5168

SD Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

Topic for 2011: ***How do You Experience the Mass as a Unifier with Other Catholics?***

Congratulations to Olivia Lyle, she has won first place in the essay contest.

Here is the winning essay:

When you walk into church, you feel the welcome-ness of it. Everyone says hello to one another and there is a loving buzz moving through the air. As Mass gets closer, there is a sense of peace that comes over us all, we are readying for family time with God.

When I attend Mass I always look forward to the Homily. To me, the Homily explains the readings and the gospel in a language I understand. As a middle schooler, I can't always find the message in the scriptures. It helps me if someone can explain what they mean. As I get older I hope to find my own message in the sacred works God has given us.

During Mass, I think everyone feels a special connection to each other and to God. We all go to Mass for a common purpose, to deepen our relationship with God. We often come to know ourselves and one another along the way.

Whenever I don't go to Mass I feel sort of empty, like I missed out on an important message from God that could help me become a better individual and disciple. I also miss the sense of family when I don't attend Mass. I often ask myself – *Why is it so hard for me to pray? Why can't I ever comfortably talk to God?* When I come to Mass I realize there are many others who are trying to find the language of prayer, just like I am. It makes me feel like I'm not so alone.

In conclusion, Mass is an essential part of like. We all need God to guide and help us in our lives. However, we also need our beloved church family, so we can keep each other on the path to heaven.

News from Around the Diocese

Women of Faith

Join us to discuss the Messianic Fulfillment, Part 2 of 3 on Wednesday, February 16, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Cathedral Lower Sacristy (in the hallway by the kitchen downstairs) even if you have not attended before. Read the gospel of Luke (especially 9:51 through 19:27) beforehand if you can. Watch a Jeff Cavin's Bible Timeline video and find out about how these chapters fit into salvation history.

Pray for Youth Eucharistic Adoration

From 9:00 a.m. Saturday, February 19, until 4:30 p.m. Monday, February 21. Sign up to pray for youth. For location and details, contact Gail Wingert at gwingert@rap.midco.net.

Day of Recollection

A Day of Recollection will be held March 19 at St. Therese Church, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with Mass at 11 a.m. All Catholic women are welcome! There is no charge, and lunch will be a potluck. Please bring a large salad, bars or cookies. Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters

Annual Diocesan Men's Retreat

Celebrating Mass: The Source and Summit of Our Faith Saturday, March 19, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City. All men of the diocese are invited to spend a day with Father Michel Mulloy exploring the riches of the Mass. The 2011 annual diocesan men's retreat is an opportunity to grow in appreciation of the Mass and prepare for the new translation of the Roman Missal, which will be used beginning in Advent. Registration fee: $35.00. **Pre-registration is required!** Registration deadline: March 11, 2011. For more information or to register call Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Happiness is an Inside Job

Come to this seminar and learn the good news about who you really are. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, March 26th. Fee of $10.00 includes refreshments. Suggested reading: "Happiness is an inside job" by John Powell, S.J. Registration is necessary… Sister Marmion 343-8011.

Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief Training

Friday, April 1, 2011! Priests, deacons, pastoral staff, psychologists, therapists, counselors, students and general public are invited to attend this educational training on the psychological and spiritual impact of abortion. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will present the day-long training at Church of Ascension, Bismarck, ND, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CST. For more information, contact Joyce McDowall, Director Office of Family Ministry, Diocese of Bismarck, at 877-405-7435 (toll free) or www.bisimarckdiocese.com. In the Diocese of Rapid City, contact Carol Kling, at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com.

Rachel's Corner

February 11th is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes

Many miracles have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes.

When struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion, it can feel almost impossible to forgive yourself or accept the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. Pray to Our Lady of Lourdes for a miracle to heal the scars on your heart left by abortion.

Attend a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™ and begin the process of healing and regaining hope. For more information about area retreats, contact Carol Kling at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or go to the diocesan website: www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/FamilyLife.htm. For more information, contact the national office at 877-467-3463 or www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Next Weekend's Ministry Schedule

February 19th & 20th, 2011

	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:00 am	Sunday 6:00 pm
Bread Baker	Becky Wentz		
Altar Servers	Matthew Linde Rileigh Kronmiller Delainey Kronmiller	Andrew Corbine Hannah Schroeder Liam Schroeder	Paige Gehlsen Maria Rohrbach Taylor Thies
Precious Body **Precious Blood**	**Deacon** Jerry Silbernagel Elijah Ehresmann Hannah Ehresmann Jacqui Blaha	**Deacon** Dennis Fischer Jean Schubauer Lorinda Collings Christine Didriksen	**Deacon** Barb Scherr Jim Scherr Teresa Thompson Kevin Rohrbach
Lectors	Pete Linde Jerry Meyer	Larry Williamson Joyce Williamson	Antoine Bedard Pascal Bedard
Sacristans	Charlie Cresalia Patty Cresalia	Frank Boner Donna Boner	Brad McCaskell Tanya McCaskell
Ushers	Joe Norman Diane Norman	Duane Schubauer Mike Keller	Aaron Thies Joan Wilson
Choir	OLBH Family Choir	Regina's Minstrels	The Covenant Band

Intercessory Prayers

Life and Health Concerns

Casey Bohms (Tom & Kay Reeve's nephew)
Frank Boner
Sandra Hocking
Marty Jolley
Rogers Family
Troy Spear

Repose of the Soul

Penny Schablitsky

The Collection Basket

February 5th & 6th, 2011

Loose	$ 1558.75
Envelopes	2476.50
Votive	8.00
Student	57.32
Adopt a Seminarian	25.00
Other	1188.28
Total	$ 5314.55

Pray for the Life Teen & Edge Core Teams

Please pray for the Life Teen & Edge Core Teams members as they begin a new curriculum on the Paschal Mystery;

Joe & Michelle Bucholz
Rhonda & John Gehlsen
Eric Scherr
Cathleen & Aaron Denekamp
Theresa & Jay Hammerquist
Ryan Scherr

If you are interested in helping on the core teams, please contact Teresa Thompson, 787-5168.

For the Ride Home

~ By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands man's every deed. (Sirach 15:19)
- Be good to your servant, that I may live and keep your words. (Psalm 119:17)
- We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, (1Corinthians 2:6)
- Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' (Matthew 5:37)

Reflection

- How do you discern God's direction for your life?
- Does the media directed consumer culture overly influence your activities?
- Do you consider your daily actions as a way to live out God's will?
- Do you start your day with prayer and end with a reflection?
- Are there any parish ministries, talks, prayer groups that could help you in your spiritual journey?

But as long as you pretend to live in pure autonomy, as your own master, without even a god to rule you, you will inevitably live as a servant to another man or as an alienated member of an organization. Paradoxically it is the acceptance of God that makes you free and delivers you from human tyranny, for when you serve God you are no longer permitted to alienate your spirit in human servitude.[1]

[1]Merton, Thomas *New Seeds of Contemplation*, New Directions: New York, 1961 p. 110.

Bible Study Group

OLBH is starting a new Bible study group. We will meet every Wednesday for one hour, starting February 23rd, after the 8:00 am Mass. The Bible study we are starting with is ***The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Seminar*** by Jeff Cavins. This is a 24 week course, but if you are unable to come every week, you can check out the DVD's or watch them in the library. February 23rd we will have an overview of the Bible study. Everyone is welcome to join in, bring your Bibles and come learn with us. If you have any questions, please contact the parish staff at 787-5168.

News from the Diocesan Social Justice Commission

Catholic social teaching is deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition. Pope John Paul II wrote, "The Church's social teaching finds its source in Sacred Scripture, beginning with the Book of Genesis and especially in the Gospel and the writings of the Apostles. From the beginning, it was part of the Church's teaching … [It was] developed by the teaching of the Popes on the modern "social question," beginning with the Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*."

Catholic Social Teaching Scripture Guide, USCCB

Reflection Questions for Next Week

God's love invites us to wholeness.

Question for Children: What can you do at home or at school to show that you follow Jesus' Commandments?

Question for Youth: Do you think Jesus was serious when he said to love your enemies? Why or why not?

Question for Adults: Have you ever told someone to do something for his/her own wellbeing? Do you accept God's laws in the same spirit of love and concern?

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Gatherings of Grace

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Liturgical Participation

The celebration of Mass is an act of the whole assembly gathered for worship. In the Mass, the Church is joined to the action of Christ. We are joined to this divine action through Baptism, which incorporates us into the risen Christ. This action, which lies at "the center of the whole of Christian life" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 16), is initiated not by us but by God acting in and through the Church as the Body of the risen Christ. The Liturgy is designed to bring about in all those who make up the worshiping assembly a "participation of the faithful, namely in body and in mind, a participation fervent with faith, hope, and charity" (GIRM, no. 18). To the extent that we are able to participate in this way, the work of redemption becomes personally effective for each of us. By such participation we make the actions and prayers of the Liturgy our own; we enter more fully into our personal communion with Christ's redeeming act and perfect worship.

"In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people of God's own possession and a royal priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the priest but also together with him, and so that they map learn to offer their very selves. They should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration. . . . Moreover, they are to form one body, whether in hearing the word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing, or above all by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by a participating together at the Lord's table" (GIRM, nos. 95, 96).

The participation of each person in the Liturgy is important. Each person needs to do his or her part.

ORDAINED MINISTRIES IN THE LITURGY

Bishops and priests are called to act in the Liturgy in the very person of Christ, on behalf of his people, pronouncing the most sacred prayers of our faith, presiding over the celebration of the sacred mysteries, explaining God's Word and feeding God's People on the Body and Blood of Christ. A bishop has the added responsibility of being the chief shepherd, the principal liturgist of his diocese in his role as the successor of the Apostles. By God's grace others are ordained to the ministry of deacon. In the celebration of the Mass deacons proclaim the Gospel, occasionally preach the homily, and assist the bishop and priest in exercising their sacred duties.

OTHER LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

In addition to the ordained ministries, some roles in the Liturgy are exercised by lay people who place their time and talent at the service of the liturgical assembly as acolytes (altar servers), lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, cantors, choir members, instrumentalists, leaders of song, and ushers. Others contribute their time and talent to planning and organizing the Liturgy; to keeping the church and the vestments, vessels, and appointments clean and well ordered; or to providing decorations that reflect the spirit of the liturgical feast or season.

This variety of offices and roles is desirable and should be maintained. It is desirable that individuals function in roles of service at Mass. For example, if a deacon is present, the priest celebrant or a concelebrant should not read the Gospel. The lector should not take on the role of a server or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. A wide variety of services needs to be performed, and it is preferable that different individuals exercise those services so that the talents and gifts God has placed within the Christian community are fully used and that these roles of service are not monopolized by a few.

Those engaged in liturgical roles need to be well prepared for those roles and to know how to carry them out with reverence, dignity, and understanding. Receiving the proper preparation requires a further gift of time on the part of the person being prepared as well as on the part of those in the parish responsible for the training of liturgical ministers. Finally, the practical task of assigning individuals to particular Masses and organizing the distribution of roles is another indispensable element in the fabric of well-ordered liturgical ministry in a parish.

All the baptized need to understand that part of their duty regarding the Liturgy is to accept some responsibility for the Liturgy, to place themselves and

their God-given talents at the service of the liturgical community whenever possible. Whether one brings up the gifts at the Presentation; reads the Word of God; assists with the distribution of Communion and brings the Eucharist to those unable to be present at Mass; serves at the altar; provides music that augments the joy, solemnity, and festivity of the celebration; or serves the assembled community as an usher, he or she is contributing to the worship of the community and fulfilling the responsibility that comes with Baptism.

Not all members of the parish community will have the time, energy, strength, or ability to serve in these roles. However, individuals must be careful not to excuse themselves too easily. What is important is that all understand that the celebration of Liturgy is not just the responsibility of the pastor, although he is delegated by the bishop to oversee the liturgical life of the parish. Pastors need the help of people who are serious about living out their baptismal right and responsibility to worship.

THE ROLE OF THE BAPTIZED

This catalog of specialized roles might give the impression that those who are not exercising one of these roles are free to sit back passively and simply let the Liturgy happen around them. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those who come together for Liturgy do not have the luxury of acting as spectators, waiting for all to be done for them. "Full, conscious, and active participation" in the Liturgy (as commended by the Second Vatican Council) is not only their right but also their duty and their responsibility. That responsibility includes full engagement throughout the liturgical celebration. The baptized faithful who form the congregation are called to join in praise and thanksgiving in song and spoken word, to listen attentively to God's Word, and to exercise their baptismal priesthood in prayer for the Church, the world, and all in need during the General Intercessions.

In the Liturgy of the Eucharist the baptized faithful join their prayer to that of the priest celebrant, offering Christ the Victim, "not only by means of the hands of the priest but also together with him," and offer themselves as well (GIRM, no. 95). Their participation culminates in the reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the sacrament that unites them more fully with Christ their Head and with one another. We need to be aware, therefore, that "participation" does not refer primarily to external activity or function during the celebration of Mass; rather, it refers to a deeply spiritual, interior participation of mind and heart, filled with devotion and penetrating the very depths of the mysteries we celebrate.

In their sincere efforts to participate, those present minister to the priest celebrant, to others who serve in liturgical roles, and to one another. Their attention and active engagement in the celebration can draw from the priest celebrant and the other ministers the best they have to offer. Their enthusiastic song and verbal responses made with conviction can encourage others to sing and respond; their very presence at the celebration of Mass when so many other enticing options might have been chosen instead supports and reinforces others who have made the same choice.

The Liturgy, then, is about the action of God's own people, each with different offices and roles. When we play our roles in the Liturgy with our bodies, minds, and hearts fully engaged, we make to God a perfect sacrifice of praise.

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